(b) No, Sir. Orders fo$_r$ 1037.5 wagons in terms of iour wheelers have been placed for manufacture in 1994-95. and

(c) Does not arise.

Computerised Reservation Centre at Jalandhar

2222. SHRI IQBAL SlNGH; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleas-ed to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 5771 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 1994 and state;

(a) what progress has so far been made in regard to the establishment of Computerised Reservation Centre at Ja! .ndhar Junction in Punj'-b;

(b) the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is expected to he put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and(b) About 60 percent of the work involved including procurement of equipment, hiring of channels etc., has been completed.

(c) The facility is likely to be introduced at Jalandhar in the current financial year.

Driveiless goods train fioai Birpur towards Bangai'-re

2223. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a driverless goods train travelled quite a lot from Birpur towards Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the circumstances in which the train was given clear signal and whether any responsibility has been fixed for this incident?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) and (b) On 9.7.94, in Birpur station yard on the Arsikere-Hubli se.t.on of Mysore Division of Southern Railway, a shut down diesel locomotive with 16 wagons was tem. porirly immobilised. However, the shunting load rolled down due to a failing gradient towards Arsikere and (ravelled about 12 kms. without any driver and with no signals. The load stopped between Kadur and Devanur stations, after reaching a rising gradient. The inquiry committee has fixed responsibility on 6 (six) railway staff.

Railway Claims Tribunals in the Cuwntry

2224. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: WUl the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of benches of Rail way Claims Tribunals in the coun try;

(b) the number of posts of Judi cial Member lying vacant i$_n$ these benches;

(c) the steps being taken by tht Government to fill up these posts;

(d) whether it is a fact that inter view for selection of Judicial Mem bers for these benches were held in January, 1994;

(e) if so, whether the appoint ments have bee$_n$ made in pursuance of these selections and if not the rea sons therefor; and

(f) by when these appointments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF); (a) Nineteen.

(b) Two postst of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) and 14 posts of Member (Judicial) are vacant.

(c) to (f) The vacancies of Vice-Chair man (Judicial) and Member (Judicial) were advertised in December 1992 and June 1993. Eligible candidates were interviewed in December 1993 and January 1994. Panel recommended by the Selection Committee has been approved. Offers of appointment for 2 Vice-Chairman and 11 Members have already issued and they have been requested to joi$_n$ by 31.8.94. Remaining offers will be issued on completion of formalities.

Operation of Luxury Tourist Tra'ns

2225. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH;
SHRi PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pla$_n$ t© involve the private sector in the operation of five luxury tourists trains;

(b) which are the proposed routes of the five luxury trains and by what time the proposed luxury trains are expected to become operational; and

(c) what will be the Railway's initial expenditure on these trains and how much annual profit is expected to be earned by the Railways from this scheme?

THE MINISTER, OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have invited bids from Public and Private Sectors for ownership; Marketing and Management of Tourist Trains on the following routes:

1. Delhi - Jaipur - Agra - Gwalior -Jhansi - Varanasi - Lucknow - Delhi.
2. Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore -Mysore - Hosi;t - Bangalore - Goa (Madgoan).
3. Bombay - Aurangabad - Nanded - Secundcrabad - Hyderabad - Pune - Bomba :.
4. Howr.Ji - Gaya - Varanasi -Gorakhpur - Bhubaneswar - Puri -Howr^ .
5. Bangalore - Mysore - Madras - Kodaikanal Read - Kany- Kumari - Trivendrum - Cochin - Mertupa-iayum - Bangalore.

In response to the global invitation to bid issued by the Ministry of Railways; twenty three bid$_s$ were received upto the closing date i.e. 25th July; 1994. The bids ar$_e$ now being evaluated by the Tender Committee for awarding the contract to **the** successful bidder. Lead time for construction and launching of the tourist trains will be one year from the date of finalisation of contract. No expenditure is being incurred by the Railways as the capital cost [a]«d cost of haulage and maintenance is to be borne by the Tourist Train Operator. Besides these costs, the successful bidders will also be required to share a minimum 15 per cent of their gross turnover from the operation of the tourist train service.

.Reduction in working expenses..

2226. SHRI SUSHHJOJMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: SHRIMATl VEENA VERMA;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an action plan alongwith economy measures undertaken by the Railways in 1993-94 has resulted in reduction of working expenses to the tune of Rs. *200 crores during the year; and

(b) if so; the details of th$_e$ measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF); (a) and (b) From 1989-90 onwards